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EQUAL SCHOOLS FOR ALL WITHOUT REGARD TO COLOR OR RACE.

*4265.407

BOSTON, May 21st, 1851.

To the Members of the Legislature of Massachusetts :

GENTLEMEN — The undersigned, colored men, and citizens of Boston, have for a number of years been deprived from the enjoyment of our rights in regard to the public instruction of our children, in the public schools of this city, on account of complexion, feel that we are suffering under a grievous wrong ; therefore, we ask you to consider our cause and render the same justice to us as to all other citizens of this Commonwealth.

We have struggled *four* or *five years* in order to get our rights in the public schools of Boston, and have from time to time been unsuccessful by reason of an unfair representation of those who have the power to deprive us of our rights. The great majority of the colored people of Boston, at least, *ninety-nine out of every hundred*, are in favor of, and have used labored efforts to overthrow separate and caste schools, and if the Boston representatives will condescend to divest themselves of all prejudice against us and make an effort to become informed in regard to the Truth, they will certify to the facts here stated.

Three years ago, at a Mass Meeting of the Colored People, here, a Committee of *fourteen* of the most respectable and worthy men among us were appointed to use all possible efforts to obtain Equal School Privileges. Said Committee corresponded with the School Committee, petitioned them for admission, and when refused, invited them to our meetings, so that an honest report might be given of our views and feelings, but to no purpose.

It is our wish that the BILL rejected last evening, which provides That no child shall be excluded from any of the public schools on account of color, be Re-considered and PASSED, so that we may receive what we have long sought for,—our rights in the public Schools of Boston. In all other places in the State, our opportunities are EQUAL.

Jonas W. Clark	J. T. Hilton	Robert Johnson	J. P. Coborn	Wm. Brown
W. C. Nell	Henry Weeden	T. G. Williams	Benj Weeden	C. Pitts
S. H. Lewis	B. F. Roberts	Joseph Scarlet	J. R. Martin	O. West
E. F. B. Mundrucu	J. Harvey	W. J. Watkins	I. H. Snowden	Charles Rose
G. Washington	William Lawson	H. L. W. Thacker	John Wright	John Garner
Lewis Smith	J. J. Smith	Wm. H. Simmons	J. B. McCrea	L. Hayden
Wm. Johnson	Wm. H. Logan	E. F. Howard	A. G. Howard	J. Turpin
P. M. Howard	Henry Foreman	Lewis Gaul	H. Randolph	J. Scott
Thomas Dalton	Cæsar Garder	George Smith	G. H. Brown	Henry Hall
Samuel Wilson	P. H. Allen	P. Stewart, jr.	John Thompson	James Aiken

and *Nine Hundred and Twenty-eight* others.

1834
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